

# THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

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## WILSON'S WAR AND PEACE MESSAGE

It may be a trifle late in time—but not in importance to speak of President Wilson's great message which he read to Congress shortly after that great body convened—but that message was such a state paper that its importance and its import cannot be too fully explained. In short it was a great war message and a great peace message as well.

And this message for the reason that it conveyed solemn meaning to the peoples of other lands—the Central Powers in particular—as well as to our own, was transmitted simultaneously to all parts of the world and it disclosed to all of the world President Wilson standing with a naked sword in one hand and an olive branch in the other, and in his public declaration the president gave notice that he proposed to use them both—successively—the sword until victory was achieved and the olive branch to confer upon the nations of the earth a peace at once so just and merciful that its blessings will endure forever.

And one thing stands out most prominently and boldly, and that is that there can be no compromise, no negotiated peace with the irresponsible predatory autocracy that has brought all of this war upon the world. The only peace that this message can sanction or consider is that which will result from putting the tiger in the cage—and if the German people should perforce insist to the end upon retaining that tiger not merely as their pet but as their master, they must go into the cage along with them. This could not, with the tiger as their guide, be admitted into the partnership of nations on an equal basis. The world could be kept safe only as that cage was kept guarded and closed.

But when the German people shall of their own volition put their tiger in leash and muzzle him when they shall present themselves with spokesmen "whose word we can believe" ready to accept the common judgment of the nations as to justice and right and safety for all "then we shall be willing and glad to pay the full price for peace and pay it ungrudgingly."

And right there is where the President held out the olive branch of peace—the same one that he had held out on another previous memorable occasion—and he assures the enemies of this world that a peace gained under such conditions would be a peace not only of justice but of mercy. No nation would be "robbed or punished" because of the abominable wrongs done by its rulers. There would be "no reparations, no contributions, no punitive indemnities," but restoration exacted only for palpable wrongs, such as that done Belgium. "There would be peace 'to the exclusion of all selfish claims to advantage' on the part of the victors. Belgium must be restored and Germany's allies set free from the Hohenzollern yoke. But there shall be 'no wrong against the German empire, no interference with her internal affairs.' Neither is there any wish 'to impair or to rearrange the Austro-Hungarian empire' or to 'dictate to him in any way.' All shall be admitted alike into the congress of nations and all, great and small, enjoy the freedom of the sea and freedom of access to the sea."

And in this repetition of his previous declarations the President indulges in implied and plain criticism of the allied powers because they have not before this made clear to Germany, to Russia and to their own people that their purposes too are such as he describes, for had this been done Russia could have been retained as an ally and the revolution prevented. And then he rebukes Italy and repudiates that country's aspirations to shut off Austria from the sea, for he clearly set that forth when he said, "I am thinking of Austria herself among the rest."

Then he having made it clear that we have no desire or purpose to destroy or isolate the Austrian empire he recommended that war be declared against her, which was done by Congress two days later—and this was done not through direct hostility toward Austria, but predicated upon the ground that Austria was the tool of Germany.

And right here is where the President launches a raw and powerful "political offensive" against the fier-

man and Austrian governments alike. He shows the people who are under those governments that they are not fighting in self-defense, to preserve their territorial integrity, their commercial rights or their political rights. They are fighting and sacrificing all they have solely to protect and retain as a menace to the world the faithless, wicked and irresponsible government of the Kaiser. He shows them that in such a war there is no hope for them. But he assures them that if they will select honorable and representative spokesmen they can have peace—peace on such terms as will protect their rights as well as the rights of others and restore them to their place in the family of nations. And he has spoken the word that, as he bravely says, should have been said long ago by others to the Russian people—the word to assure them that this war, on the part of the United States and its allies, is not a war for imperialism, not a war of aggression in any particular, but a war solely for liberty and justice and enduring peace.

And these noble sayings can be made doubly effective, in Russia as well as in Germany and Austria, if the responsible and enlightened statesmanship of Britain, France and Italy will accept it as the voice and the pledge of those lands as well as of our own. That such action will be taken there is not, we think, a reasonable doubt. Colonel House has been in Europe preparing the way for it, and on the grounds neither of expediency nor morals can the leadership of the United States be rejected.

What Lord Lansdowne said haltingly and with misplaced emphasis President Wilson has said with crystal clarity, with the emphasis exactly right. The weakness of the Lansdowne utterance was that it seemed to contemplate a negotiated "peace without victory" with the existing irresponsible German government, which would be for that government a clean-cut triumph and for the world a continuing and mounting menace. It would render vain and useless all the sacrifices that have been made in the effort to "make the world safe for democracy." President Wilson demands that the world be made safe for democracy first—and when it is he promises everything, in the way of wisely negotiated peace terms, that Lansdowne dared suggest.

## THE PEOPLE LOOKING TO CONGRESS

The sixty-fifth congress is now in its active session—and it is wrestling now with—and will later with more—questions that concern the whole earth and all mankind. If Congress acts wisely or if it lacks in wisdom, it will profoundly affect generations as yet unborn.

And there is one thing that Congress should do, and which every American wants it to do—and that is to present a united patriotic front to the world, for whether it be for good or evil Congress will set an example that will directly and powerfully influence all of the people. Above all other it should not become a debating society. While it is fundamentally democratic that every good citizen of a republic is entitled to his opinion and his right to express it, it applies equally with that of congressmen, but circumstances alter cases. This country is now at war and it is not simply the army and navy but the whole country that is at war. Every citizen, every industry, is a part of the fighting establishment. That is the kind of a war this war is.

We have our commanding officers—the President of the United States as commander-in-chief.

On the firing line, when a command is given it is the duty of the soldiers to obey it. Some may not think it the wise or proper command. There may be great variety of opinion on that point. It makes no difference. It would be fatal, preposterous, to stop and argue it.

The rule must apply, in war, not only on the line but behind the line.

Americans, whether as citizens or as members of Congress, have the full right to differ on all questions but one—and that one is the support and successful prosecution of the war. That involves the support of the responsible and constitutional commanding officer. Congress has its own decisions to make, and up to the point that a decision is reached division and argument are not only legitimate but salutary. But when the decision is once made and it becomes the duty of the executive to put it into effect congressmen like their constituents, if they are wise men and good patriots, will fall into line and help rather than hinder its enforcement.

And there are going to be reputations made and ruined at this present session, and no senator or representative who puts his selfish interest or the interest of his party ahead of the interest of the country at war can hope long to fool the public.

No senator or representative who stands stubbornly by his own opinion, once the majority has overruled him and pledged the country to the contrary course, need hope to be com-

mended as a brave and fearless man who "dares to stand alone." In such an emergency there is no such thing as standing alone. One stands either with his country or against it.

At such a time as this there is a harvest of opportunity for the demagogue and the faithfinder. But it is a harvest dangerous to reap. It goes without saying that there is confusion to criticize, inefficiency, error, waste, foolishness.

The country is looking to Congress today. It is looking for inspiration, for leadership, for good example. It is looking for that unselfish and friendly co-operation that is blind to party lines and personal likes and dislikes and that is concerned only with the strengthening of the republic.

Compared to this consideration all other are inconsequential. That public official who would stoop to play party politics or personal ambition against it would be wiser to hang a millstone from his neck and leap into the sea.

## PATIENCE OF THE PRESIDENT

In this time of great stress and trouble President Wilson in his attitude toward Russia and Germany's allies has always been found on the side of wisdom and moderation.

That great class of people who do much shouting in times of stress never have any time left for thinking. People of this sort readily and lightly confuse the Bolsheviks with all of Russia. Because of their hatred of the Lenin and Trotsky—their hatred flares easily—they stand prepared to punish all Russia for their sins. They would eagerly sacrifice the great gain of the war—the emancipation of Russia. They would hasten to declare Russia an "enemy" and force it into Germany's hungry arms. An important eastern newspaper even declares that, if Russia is not careful, the central and eastern powers might get together on the basis of the partition of Russia, finding peace, and compensation for both groups, in Russia's dismemberment. This group, if it could have its way, would soon have the American people hating Russia and ready to declare war on it—which, above all things, is what Germany would like best.

But the President, in the thick of the raging storm, shows patience and optimism and a fair and tolerant spirit.

In doing so he proves his claim to real greatness, as did Abraham Lincoln, under somewhat similar circumstances, during the Civil war. Though others may forget it Woodrow Wilson knows what the preservation of the fruits of the Russian revolution means to the world. While others would be so stupid as to help thrust Russia into an alliance with the enemy, Woodrow Wilson is for using all possible means, for striving to the last possible moment, to win Russia to continued loyalty to her present and rightful allies. He has no sympathy with the ally chorus of hatred shrilled out against the Russian people based on preposterous misunderstanding of their character and ideals.

The worst may come out of the Russian crisis, but President Wilson will continue hoping and working for the best. He would hold Russia as a friend, if it is within the bounds of the possible, by proving that we are indeed its friend and that our national ideals and war aims are such as, if Russia will adopt them, will bring enduring peace, security and liberty.

## STOP HITTING THE FARMERS

The telegraph wires of late have been weighted down with alleged news dispatches that have not a sentence of truth in them and which are sent out to promote discord and discontent, among the latest being from Chicago to the effect that farmers will make no effort to increase production and will let all their land which they cannot till themselves lie idle. How did the man who gave out that information know that there was any such feeling among the farmers? Had he taken a census of the farmers and inquired what they would do next spring? A little thought would brand the declarations as simply malicious.

The best way to find out what are the intentions of farmers is to read the agricultural papers. Millions of copies of them are read by the farmers every week and they, more accurately than any other publications, represent the farmers' views. Not one of them has so far expressed any such opinions as were contained in that dispatch. Neither has any farmer in this part of the country. The only complaint that any of them has made is that the prices of their products have in some cases been fixed by the government, while the things they buy have not. President Wilson called attention to that in his message and recommended measures of relief which will, without doubt, be soon applied. There is no more loyal body of men in the United States than the farmers. In raising Red Cross and other benevolent funds the cities have great parades and the movement has large space in the papers. There are no parades and brass bands in the country and the efforts of the farmers and their wives have little space in the

news columns. The work progresses more slowly among the scattered population of the farms, but they are all, both men and women, just as patriotic as the people of the cities and will do their share to win the war. There has been a tendency of late to attack the farmers on every occasion and without occasion. The thing should be stopped.

## THE AWFUL PRICE WE PAY

The terrible cost of this war is past human comprehension unless by comparison. The last session of congress appropriated for war purposes nearly 18 billion dollars. The estimates for the present session are 11½ billion, making a grand total for the special and first regular session of over 32 billions—in a space of a single year.

"World's Work" has figured out that from the establishment of the United States government under George Washington up to March, 1917, the total cost of maintaining the government aggregated 28 billions of dollars. This included the cost of the War of 1812, the Mexican war, the Civil war, pensions, and everything that necessitated a congressional appropriation.

In one year of this war, therefore, Congress will have appropriated 23 per cent more money than all previous congresses appropriated in the whole 128 years of the nation's history!

Such is the price we are paying to make the world safe for democracy. And this is only a part of the price—the smaller part. It takes no account of the cost in killed and wounded, in blighted homes and desolated lives.

Is it any wonder that people who realize all this, and who believe that our object in this war is well worth the awful price, grow impatient with the slacker, the cautious critic, the footpad and the additionist?

The school board should have divulged the names of the teachers who were investigated charged with disloyalty. To keep the names secret gives busy-bodies and scandal mongers the opportunity to draw the names of others whose loyalty is not questioned, into the mire.

If that revolver had been where it belonged—at the bottom of the Missouri river—the Frederick avenue tragedy of Sunday would not have occurred and two St. Joseph homes would not now be in mourning.

The careless handling of revolvers caused another death here Sunday. It will be a happy day for all of the world when the manufacture of these death dealing instruments is prohibited by law.

The "dry" bill will come up for consideration in the House Monday. It is expected that this troublesome bill will be disposed of in short order that the real work of congress may proceed.

Fifty dollars to one, that there are five hundred farmers in St. Joseph's vicinity who know as much or more of practical farming than the \$4,000 "expert" who landed here this week.

This year's crops in the United States are rated at a value of \$11,000,000,000. This is the same amount that it is figured Uncle Sam's war bill will amount to this fiscal year.

There are only eight more shopping days before Christmas. Come in now and improve the opportunity for the St. Joseph merchants have the goods and will sell them right.

Supt. Elbert of the St. Joseph Gas Co. says that gas conditions in Kansas are just "awful." And St. Joseph people will argue that the same condition prevails here.

The entrance of Christians into possession of Jerusalem will be welcome news to the religious world at large. It marks an important epoch in modern times.

Reports seem to show that the American people obeyed the advice of the federal authorities to get their Christmas packages started to France early.

We need not be surprised if one of those baseball games on the American front is broken up in a fight, with all the players on the same side of the fight.

It is up to the physicians of St. Joseph to volunteer for army work, and the full quota St. Joseph is to furnish will be ready when the time comes.

However extraordinary official carers have not so distracted President Wilson but that he has been able to do his Christmas shopping early.

When those "lightless nights" come into action won't it be "just too nice" for the love torn swain and wainoid?

The school board acted properly in changing the name of the German-English school to the Longfellow.

When a St. Joseph barber was fined Tuesday in police court for striking a lawyer his defense was that he did not

know that it was a crime to hit an attorney. Possibly not—if the lawyer is your attorney.

If your "alien enemy" sues you now, you can easily get back at him and have the courts to throw the case out, as Judge Uta did Tuesday.

The punishment of the negro soldiers who "shot up" Houston, Texas, a short time ago was swift and terrible—as it should have been.

And now the press dispatches talk about a "coal famine" in Ohio. That's no news—we have had one here in St. Joseph since last August.

Of course that Waldorf-Astoria Christmas fruit cake going to the boys in France cannot be disposed of except by a real attack.

The president evidently agrees with Lloyd George in saying that the central powers must learn the word "reparation."

If Sheriff Ed Isaacson cannot control his trustees any other way, he might try the experiment of locking them up.

If you have not invested in a thrift stamp, go to the postoffice or any bank or good store and do so at once.

Of course you "just loved" the cold snap the first of the week—provided that you had coal in the bin.

But perhaps a presidential election in Finland will not amount to a crisis until the republic grows older.

Perhaps Nicholas Romanoff will be permitted to take another start in life under the Siberian flag.

The American aviation service is getting ready to use some "knockout" drops.

Only eight more days to Christmas shop with the St. Joseph merchants.

## What the Missouri Editors Are Saying

**Better Buy Two!**  
Buy a baby bond and watch it grow up.—Kansas City Times.

**Like Our Old Friend, Col. Bill!**  
Kenresky is still in the running, and is some runner.—Boonville Advocate.

**As Like As Two Peas**  
Lord Lansdowne seems to be the LaPollette of England.—Henry County Democrat.

**Where Were Their Eyes?**  
It is believed the jury knew Mrs. De Saules wasn't guilty as soon as it saw that she was a perfect lady.—Kansas City Times.

**Why Not Offer All of Turkey?**  
Even if Rumania isn't having a good time, it seems foolish to quit and go home right in the shank of the evening.—Kansas City Times.

**"Righter" Than a Fox!**  
Doubtless Kerensky made some mistakes, but he didn't make one when he said "other nations will have to take the burdens of the war."—Dade County Advocate.

**That May Be So But—?**  
This is a lucky time for the state to impose its income tax. The federal income taxes are so much larger that the state tax never will be noticed.—Kansas City Times.

**Not in Our House!**  
Your kitchen may be either a "base of supplies" or an alien aid according to the measure of your practice of food economy and conservation measures.—Ravenwood Gazette.

**Why Not Look Like Hughes?**  
Whiskers will become prominent if our barbers tilt the price of hair cuts to 40c and shaves to 25c like some barbers in some of the cities are doing.—Hopkins Journal.

**And In a Good Cause, Too!**  
Anyway it cannot be said that Congress is meeting without knowing what its war aim is—its war aim is at our pocketbook, and it's going to hit it, too.—Kansas City Times.

**Don't Guess! Waste of Time**  
Owing to the uncertainties of Russian politics, it is a guess whether Mr. Lenin is in the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul or in Berlin getting his next week's orders.—Kansas City Times.

**Actions Will Do the Explaining!**  
The President's address may lose something of its force and finish in the process of translation, but Austria probably will be able to get its meaning in its main essentials.—Kansas City Times.

**So Did the Rope in 1906**  
If we had entertained any doubt as to the capacity of the Russian people for self-government, it must subside. The defeated party in recent elections

is protesting that the victors won by fraud.—Henry County Democrat.

**Kiss Your Wages Goodbye**  
Porkers from this vicinity are going to market on a hop, skip and a jump, twenty-one cars leaving the yards the past week.—Hopkins Journal.

**Stripes Would Become Them!**  
If the president has his way, profiteers who pile up big sums at the expense of the people at this critical time will find themselves taking time to think the matter over behind prison bars. And they should.—Albany Ledger.

**Back to the Kitchen, Gals!**  
These "Militant Suffragettes" should be "Somewhere in Pants," and that somewhere ought to be at least as far from the White House as the Philippine Islands or the trenches in the European battlefields.—Dade County Advocate.

**Did He "Copper" It?**  
A St. Louis man was given one year in the Leavenworth penitentiary a few days ago for offering to bet that the Kaiser felled Uncle Sam. You may think what you like, but be careful and don't think too loud.—Boonville Advertiser.

**Might Give 'Em the Big Head!**  
If, for the moment, we make a distinction between the vassal and the tools, Turkey and Bulgaria needn't feel too elated. We reserve the right to promote them to the vassal class any time they seem to merit it.—Kansas City Times.

**Back Up! Too Much Territory!**  
We not only believe that the convicts should be taken out of the state penitentiary and put to work on the roads, but that some of the contractors who have been building the roads ought to be in the penitentiary.—Kansas City Times.

**Got Stung? Try the Home Stores!**  
As between Springfield stores and Kansas City or Chicago stores, we can see but little difference, and the man who pulls the first brick is equally responsible with the man who pulls the one that lets the structure fall.—Buffalo Record.

**Does a Duck Take to Water?**  
Just check yourself when you start to write a check on a bank in which you have no funds, for the new ruling is to cash no checks unless funds are in the bank to meet them. In other words, there are to be no more overdrafts. Were you ever guilty?—Hopkins Journal.

**Roosey Weeps Anew Every Week**  
Colonel Roosevelt violently denounces any suggestion that Chinese coolies be imported to replenish the depleted labor supply. Let the women do the work, is evidently an accurate expression of his idea.—Milan Standard.

**Try the "Sulphur Regions!"**  
We are urged by the fuel administration to buy coal at once as there may be a scarcity. Which brings on the question, "Where are we going to stock up?" At this writing, none of the local yards have coal of any kind.—Fairfax Forum.

**Brother Polo—You're Sure Right!**  
The fellow who refers to the town paper as the "gimlet," the "weakly," etc., usually has a record that, if one-tenth of it was printed in the paper, he would likely change his mind as to the importance of the little old paper.—Polo News-Herald.

**And They Cannot Afford It!**  
Looks like it ain't much use to bother ourselves about prohibition when the price of liquor has got so high that nobody except the very rich can buy it. That is as it should be. If anybody can afford to drink liquor it is the rich.—Maysville Pilot.

**Mo's Papers Always Boogie Mo.!**  
Missouri newspapers are doing a mighty fine service in boosting the advantages of this state as a truly desirable place for investments and for families desiring homes on the farm. Real estate in Missouri is advancing already in many communities, and a practical land boom of the substantial sort has already started in this section.—Milan Standard.

**We Never Got Any Back!**  
An Iowa coal mining company that had overcharged for coal at the mine was compelled by the food administration to pay back \$1.05 a ton of its price as an over-charge to "all purchasers," which evidently includes the consumers. It may take some time to get price regulation going, but if the war lasts long it will come.—St. Louis Times.

**Was This Really "Sent In?"**  
Sent in: A widow took her husband's will to a firm of lawyers. While one of the firm was reading the document, she suddenly grabbed the will, hit the lawyer over the head with her umbrella and left the office. "What's the matter with that woman," said to lawyer who was struck. "All

I said to the woman was 'You've got a nice, fat legacy.'"—Fairfax Forum.

**Tut, Tut, Henry—Don't!**  
Some men would rather pay two dollars and twenty-five cents for a quart of forty-rod rot gut than one dollar to keep alive a home newspaper that some day might lay a bouquet of flowers on the coffin of these same booze fighters.—Clarkdale Journal.

**It Has More Shotgun Artists**  
The St. Joseph Observer is trying to have the people believe that town a healthier place to live than is Kansas City. The paper says the death rate in St. Joseph last year was less than in any other city of one hundred thousand population in the United States. Too many people are killed in Kansas City, which makes the death rate higher than in almost any other city.—Boonville Advertiser.

**Why Not Cut the Price?**  
The packers say so much beef is piling up in storage that there is really no longer any need of a meatless day. But we've all been getting on pretty well without meat one day a week, and we are likely to keep on in the hope that if the packers get enough on hand they may cut the price a trifle to encourage us to eat a little more on the days when we do eat meat.—Kansas City Times.

**Neale Will Do His Part**  
While very little politics is being discussed these days, the Democratic party is preparing for the big battle next year. Ben M. Neale, of Greenfield, who has been elected chairman of the Democratic State Committee to succeed James Cowgill, is a natural born politician. He lives in a county where a Democrat has to fight hard for all he gets. This sort of campaign manager always "gets the bacon," and Mr. Neale is the right man for the place.—Howell County Gazette.

**Bill Was Ready in '08!**  
William Jennings Bryan, one time the leading pacifist in this country, has experienced a radical change of heart, as indicated by the following quotation from a speech recently delivered at Evanston, Ill.: "I believe there is but one way to get a lasting peace is to fight for it. We should all get together and fight like the devil. I have been a pacifist in times past and I still believe in peace, but the sort of a peace I want is a lasting peace."—Glasgow Missourian.

**In Peace, Hire a Hall!**  
There is no more eloquent and gifted speaker than is Bishop Quayle of the Methodist church. We can generally read his sermons and war addresses and endorse ninety-nine per cent of all he says, but his Thanksgiving address in which he made a foolish and senseless attack upon the Pope can not but prove hurtful and embarrassing. We suggest the eloquent militant cut out all that sort of stuff, especially at this time when we need a united America to help win the war.—Boonville Advertiser.

**All Pay Alike**  
Some peanut papers and politicians have been having gas attacks because they thought the congressmen had exempted themselves from having to pay the war income tax. They would not wait to get the real facts in the case, but wanted something to discredit the present representatives, and it didn't seem to matter to them whether they were right or not, just so they had something to accuse the congressmen of. They ought to keep pretty still from now on. The congressmen pay the war income tax the same as private citizens.—Albany Ledger.

**Punishing the Draft Resisters**  
There can be only pity for those misguided draft resisters who were convicted and sentenced in the federal court this week. Apparently they thought the government was not in earnest when it decided to make war on the German menace. The punishment is undoubtedly severe. If these had been isolated cases it might have been made lighter. But all over the country there have been groups of rattle-brained agitators who might have made trouble for the government if they had not been dealt with severely. Uncle Sam has got to make it unprofitable and unpopular to resist the Draft Act.—Kansas City Times.

**Comin' Up Here Hen?**  
Having made arrangements to move elsewhere by December 10, we ask your appreciation of our efforts to give you a home paper. This is attested by the payment of what you owe us. Several weeks ago we stated that the existence of the Journal depended upon the promptness of our appeal for aid. A few responded, but not enough to be of any material aid. The time has come when we can no longer live on air—our body demands something more substantial. In all kindness and humility, we ask you to come and pay what you owe us. We need, and must have, our money. Yours, etc., H. G. Dunn, Editor.—Clarkdale Journal.